IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:	Examiner:
Georg EGLOFF	
Serial No.: To be assigned	Group Art Unit:
Filed: June 15, 2001	Corres. To DE 100 29 352.2 Filed June 15, 2000
For: GASKET	
	McLean, Virginia

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the subject application, filed concurrently herewith, as indicated below:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

After the title on page 1, insert the following heading and paragraph:

--RELATED APPLICATION

The subject matter of this application is related to application Serial No. 09/848,206 (Docket T2861-907254) filed May 4, 2001, in the name of Kurt HOHE et al., entitled "Gasket and Method for the Manufacture Thereof".--

Page 13, delete the last paragraph in its entirety and insert the following new paragraph:

--While this invention has been described in conjunction with specific embodiments thereof, it is evident that many alternatives, modifications and variations will be apparent to those skilled in the art. Accordingly, the preferred embodiments of the invention as set forth herein, are intended to be illustrative, not limiting. Various changes may be made without departing from the true spirit and full scope of the invention as set forth herein and defined in the claims.—

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims. The claims that follow are a complete set of "clean" claims. The claims marked up to show the changes with underlining and bracketing are included as an attachment to this Preliminary Amendment:

1. (Amended) A gasket comprising at least one metal layer having at least one through-hole and at least one metal ring welded thereto, said at least one metal ring being arranged around said at least one through-hole, a welding bead, said at least one metal layer and said at least one metal ring being welded to each other along a welding bead, said welding bead maintaining said at least one metal layer and said at least one metal ring in a spaced-apart relationship.

2. (amended) The gasket according to claim 1, wherein said at least one metal layer and said at least one metal ring are spaced from each other by a distance which is constant around said at least one through-hole.

3. (amended) The gasket according to claim 1, wherein said at least one layer and said at least one metal ring are spaced from each other by a distance which varies around said at least one through-hole

4. The gasket according to claim 1, wherein said welding bead is compressible.

5. The gasket according to claim 1 wherein said at least one metal layer is made of a material selected from the list of aluminum, sheet steel, stainless steel, spring steel and carbon steel.

6. The gasket according to claim 1, wherein said at least one metal ring is made of a material selected from the list of copper, bronze, aluminum, sheet steel, stainless steel, spring steel and carbon steel.

7. The gasket according to claim 1, wherein said welding bead extends continuously around said at least one through-hole.

8. (amended) A gasket comprising at least one metal layer having at least one through-hole and at least one metal ring welded thereto, said at least one metal ring being arranged around said at least one through-hole, a welding bead, said at least one metal layer and said at least one metal ring being welded to each other along a welding bead, said welding bead maintaining said at least one metal layer and said at least one metal ring in a spaced-apart relationship and said at least one metal layer comprising at least one sealing bead. .

9. (amended) The gasket according to claim 8, wherein said sealing bead extends around said at least one metal ring.

10. The gasket according to claim 9, wherein a further metal ring is arranged around the sealing bead.

11. (amended) The gasket according to claim 8, wherein said at least one metal ring extends around the sealing bead.

12. (amended) The gasket according to claim 8, wherein said welding bead extends within the sealing bead.

13. (amended) The gasket according to claim 1, wherein the gasket comprises two adjacent metal layers having sealing beads located in each metal layer and arranged opposite with respect to each other.

14. (amended) The gasket according to claim 1, wherein the gasket comprises two adjacent metal layers having sealing beads located in each metal layer and arranged offset with respect to each other.

15. The gasket according to claim 1, wherein the gasket comprises two metal layers, at least one of which has an indentation or cranking for symmetrically aligning the metal ring.

16. (amended) A method for manufacturing a gasket having at least one metal layer, and at least one metal ring, said metal layer having at least one through hole comprising generating a welding bead in one of said metal layer and said metal ring and generating a welding joint between the metal layer and the metal ring by projection welding.

17. (amended) The method according to claim 16, comprising generating the welding bead with a shape selected from the list of U-shaped, V-shaped, Ω-shaped and trapezoidal cross section.

18. (amended) The method according to claim 16, comprising generating the welding bead in the metal layer and generating a sealing bead in the metal layer during the generational welding bead in the metal layer.

19. (amended) The method according claim 16, comprising discharging a capacitance to generate a welding current for generating the projection welding joint.

20. (amended) The method according to claim 16, comprising arranging at least one deformation limiter within the welding bead during the generation of the welding joint.

21. (amended) The method according to claim 16, comprising arranging at least one abutment element outside the welding bead during generation of the welding joint.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please delete the Abstract at page 17 in its entirety and substitute the following new Abstract. (An Abstract showing the changes using brackets and underlining is included as an attachment at the end of this Preliminary Amendment.)

--**Abstract**

The invention refers to a gasket (1), the gasket having at least one metal layer (3) and at least one metal ring (5) welded thereto, the metal layer (3) having at least one through-hole (4) and the metal ring (5) being arranged around the through-hole (4). The metal layer (3) and the metal ring (5) are welded to each other along a welding bead (7) which keeps the metal layer (3) and the metal ring (5) in a spaced apart relationship to one another. The gasket (1) has welding joints which are stable for a long time, and thus a high sealing capacity.--

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is filed to correct informalities in the specification, claims and abstract resulting from a literal translation of the German text.

Early action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

MILES & STOCKBRIDGE P.C.

Date: June 15, 2001

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The following are the original claims marked up to show the changes with underlining and bracketing:

1. (Amended) A gasket comprising at least one metal layer having at least one through-hole and at least one metal ring welded thereto, said at least one metal ring being arranged around said at least one through-hole, [wherein] a welding bead, said at least one metal layer and said at least one metal ring [are] being welded to each other along a welding bead, said welding bead [keeping] maintaining said at least one metal layer and said at least one metal ring in a spaced-apart relationship [to each other].

2. (amended) The gasket according to claim 1, wherein said at least one metal layer and said at least one metal ring are [kept in a spaced-apart relationship] spaced from each other by a distance which is constant around said at least one through-hole.

3. (amended) The gasket according to claim 1, wherein said at least one layer and said at least one metal ring are [kept in a spaced-apart relationship] spaced from each other by a distance which varies around said at least one through-hole

4. The gasket according to claim 1, wherein said welding bead is compressible.

5. The gasket according to claim 1 wherein said at least one metal layer is made of a material selected from the list of aluminum, sheet steel, stainless steel, spring steel and carbon steel.

6. The gasket according to claim 1, wherein said at least one metal ring is made of a material selected from the list of copper, bronze, aluminum, sheet steel, stainless steel, spring steel and carbon steel.

7. The gasket according to claim 1, wherein said welding bead extends continuously around said at least one through-hole.

8. (amended) [The gasket according to claim 1, wherein said at least one metal layer comprises at least one sealing bead] A gasket comprising at least one metal layer having at least one through-hole and at least one metal ring welded thereto, said at least one metal ring being arranged around said at least one through-hole, a welding bead, said at least one metal layer and said at least one metal ring being welded to each other along a welding bead, said welding bead maintaining said at least one metal layer and said at least one metal ring in a spaced-apart relationship and said at least one metal layer comprising at least one sealing bead.

9. (amended) The gasket according to claim 8, wherein said sealing bead [is arranged] extends around said at least one metal ring.

10. The gasket according to claim 9, wherein a further metal ring is arranged around the sealing bead.

11. (amended) The gasket according to claim 8, wherein said at least one metal ring [is arranged] extends around the sealing bead.

12. (amended) The gasket according to claim 8, wherein said welding bead [is arranged] extends within the sealing bead.

13. (amended) The gasket according to claim 1, wherein the gasket comprises two adjacent metal layers [with] having sealing beads located in each metal layer and arranged opposite with respect to each other.

14. (amended) The gasket according to claim 1, wherein the gasket comprises two adjacent metal layers [with] having sealing beads located in each metal layer and arranged offset with respect to each other.

15. The gasket according to claim 1, wherein the gasket comprises two metal layers, at least one of which has an indentation or cranking for symmetrically aligning the metal ring.

16. (amended) A method for manufacturing a gasket having at least one metal layer, and at least one metal ring, said metal layer having at least one through hole comprising generating a welding bead in [at least one of a] one of said metal layer and said metal ring and generating a welding joint between the metal layer and the metal ring by projection welding.

17. (amended) The method according to claim 16, [wherein] comprising generating the welding bead [is generated] with a shape [before the welding process] selected from the list of U-shaped, V-shaped, Ω-shaped and trapezoidal cross section.

18. (amended) The method according to claim 16, [wherein] comprising generating the welding bead [is generated] in the metal layer and [during generating the welding bead in the metal layer] generating a sealing bead [is generated] in the metal layer during the generational welding bead in the metal layer.

19. (amended) The method according claim 16, [wherein] comprising discharging a capacitance to generate a welding current for generating the projection welding joint [is provided by discharging a capacitance].

20. (amended) The method according to claim 16, [wherein during generating the welding joint, at least] comprising arranging at least one deformation limiter [is arranged] within the welding bead during generation of the welding joint.

21. (amended) The method according to claim 16, [wherein during generating the welding joint, at least] comprising arranging at least one abutment element [is arranged] outside the welding bead during generation of the welding joint.

An Abstract showing the changes using brackets and underlining follows:

Abstract

The invention refers to a gasket (1), the gasket having at least one metal layer (3) and at least one metal ring (5) welded thereto, the metal layer (3) having at least one through-hole (4) and the metal ring (5) being arranged around the through-hole (4). The metal layer (3) and the metal ring (5) are welded to each other along a welding bead (7) which keeps the metal layer (3) and the metal ring (5) in a spaced apart relationship to one another. The gasket (1) has welding joints which are stable for a long time, and thus a high sealing capacity.

[Figure 3 should accompany the abstract.]